

~~TOP SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

MORI/CDF C05108928 Pages 1-3

JCS review completed.

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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DE RUMJIR #0060 1470855
ZNR UUUUU ZPO
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~~TOP SECRET~~ 270845Z MAY 70 VIA CAS CHANNELS

FROM: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON 674

TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY HENRY A. KISSINGER

REF: WHS-0038

1. GENERAL ABRAMS AND I MET WITH THIEU YESTERDAY EVENING AND WENT OVER WITH HIMAEN DETAIL GUIDELINES PROVIDED IN STATE 77899. WE FOUND HIM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT. AS YOU KNOW, EARLIER GENERAL HAIG AND I HAD A DISCUSSION WITH HIM COVERING MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND. THIEU'S VIEWS AS EXPRESSED TO US THEN AND CONFIRMED IN DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL ABRAMS AND ME LATER HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO YOU IN DETAIL BY GENERAL HAIG. THE DISCUSSION WHICH GENERAL ABRAMS AND I HAD WITH HIM WAS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THAT REPORTED BY GENERAL HAIG.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE MUCH DIFFICULTY ABOUT HAVING ARVN WITHDRAW BY 30 JUNE, TO RETURN LATER IF NECESSARY. THIEU DID SAY THAT IF SOME CACHES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, ARVN OUGHT TO CLEAN THESE UP EVEN AFTER JUNE 30. THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION, HOWEVER, THAT THIEU VIEWS THAT THE MAIN BENEFIT TO BE DERIVED FROM CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS IS THE GREAT ADVANTAGE IT PROVIDES FOR CONCENTRATION ON PACIFICATION AND DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY FORCES WITHIN SOUTH VIET-NAM, AND THAT HE INTENDS TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS.

3. I BELIEVE, AND GENERAL HAIG CONCURS, THAT THIEU AND WE ARE ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH REGARDING FUTURE OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA. I WILL GET A READ-OUT OF HIS MEETING WITH HIS COMMANDERS TODAY AND REPORT. ~~TOP SECRET~~ EYES ONLY

JULY 1, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT VIETNAMESE TROOPS BE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AT THAT TIME.

- THE GVN WILL STUDY WAYS IN WHICH IT CAN PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT TO AS GREAT AN EXTENT AS POSSIBLE.

No Objection to Declassification in Full 2011/10/17 : LOC-HAK-490-2-44-7



Department of State

TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

R 270937Z MAY 70
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON 6116Q
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC 1300 1970 MAY 27 AM 6:39
INFO RUMJNO/AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 430
BT
T O P S E C R E T SAIGON 8218

NODIS/KHMER

REF: A. STATE 070781; B. STATE 077899

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THIEU, MAY 26, 1970.

1. GENERAL ABRAMS AND I HAD DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH THIEU COVERING SUBJECT OF REFTELS EVENING OF MAY 26. THIEU FOUND NO PROBLEM WITH OUR PRESENTATION AND AGREED THAT GUIDANCE OUTLINED SHOULD GOVERN FUTURE ACTIONS.

2. AS REPORTED IN MY SAIGON 7986, THIEU REITERATED THAT IT IS NOT THE GVN PURPOSE TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN CAMBODIA. IN GVN VIEW, THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS IS TO ASSIST AND ACCELERATE VIETNAMIZATION, TO FACILITATE CLEANING OUT REMAINING VC STRONGHOLDS WITHIN VIET-NAM, AND TO DESTROY VC/NVA FORCES WITHIN COUNTRY. IT IS NOT GVN PURPOSE TO TAKE OVER EITHER CAMBODIA'S BATTLE OR ITS TERRITORY.

3. THIEU MADE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- WHILE HE EXPECTS THAT ALL GVN FORCES WILL BE OUT OF CAMBODIA BY 30 JUNE, THERE MAY BE SOME FEW CACHES WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE CLEANED UP.
- HE HOPES TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT LIMITED CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS TO PREVENT ENEMY FROM REBUILDING BASES IN CAMBODIA BORDER AREA TO PRECLUDE MOVEMENT OF FORCES ACROSS BORDER FROM CAMBODIA INTO SVN AND TO PREVENT MOVEMENT OF ENEMY FORCES FROM SVN INTO CAMBODIA. THIEU BELIEVES THAT THIS LATTER MOVE VERY LIKELY TO OCCUR. HE EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT VC/NVA FORCES IN III AND IV CORPS ARE NOW ISOLATED AND THERE IS NOW OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE THEM.
- SINCE ACCELERATED PACIFICATION PROGRAM IS TO BEGIN JULY 1, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT VIETNAMESE TROOPS BE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AT THAT TIME.
- THE GVN WILL STUDY WAYS IN WHICH IT CAN PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT TO AS GREAT AN EXTENT AS POSSIBLE.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE MEKONG OPEN TO PHNOM PENH BUT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO REQUIRE STRONG MILITARY PRESENCE

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-2- SAIGON 8218, MAY 27 (NODIS/KIMER)

ON THE RIVER.

- THE GVN MUST DO WHAT IT CAN TO PROTECT SOUTH VIETNAMESE RESIDING IN CAMBODIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, ACCESS TO PHNOM PENH VIA MEKONG IMPORTANT IN CASE FURTHER EVACUATION NECESSARY, BUT THIEU HOPES IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR ETHNIC VIETNAMESE.

- HE FEELS THAT GVN MUST RETAIN FLEXIBILITY IN REGARD TO SITUATION WHICH COULD ARISE IN CASE OF A SERIOUS EMERGENCY SUCH AS AN ATTACK ON PHNOM PENH AND A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT. HE FEELS THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO ARRIVE AT A COORDINATED POSITION ON WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN SHOULD SUCH AN EMERGENCY ARISE.

4. THIEU PLANS TO REVIEW SITUATION WITH HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS TODAY TO GO OVER SITUATION CONCERNING OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA AND TO ALERT THEM TO REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCELERATED PACIFICATION PROGRAM TO BEGIN JULY 1. I SHALL TRY TO SECURE READ-OUT ON THIS.

BUNKER

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